



Peaks Island Council MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 6:15 p.m.

Hybrid ZOOM/in-person meeting in the Community Center

NEXT Regular Monthly PIC Meeting
March 27, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Peter McLaughlin, Scott Mohler, Garry Fox, Sheilagh Reiser, Jerzy Sylvester (zoom)

Absent: Jess Burton, Fred Somers

Number of Audience Members (AM) in attendance: 9 in person, 6 on zoom

Orientation of new council members – Bill Patnaude conducted orientation of councilors Garry Fox and Sheilagh Reiser.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mohler made the motion to accept the January 24, 2024 meeting minutes and the February 3, 2024 Storm Recovery Town Hall meeting minutes. Fox seconded. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Patnaude said that the current balance as of February 24, 2024 is \$7,203.40. Expenditures during January included \$265.50 for needs-based tickets.

Mohler made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Fox seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

• Executive Committee –

Meeting with City Manager –McLaughlin met with Danielle West, City Manager, to review the ordinance that created PIC in 2007. Patnaude was also in attendance. McLaughlin had identified several minor changes. The larger issue concerned staggering the length of appointed councilor terms so that multiple councilors don't term off at the same time. The next step is that Councilor Trevorrow will sponsor a proposal to get City Council approval for the ordinance changes that PIC have approved.

New election/candidate dates – McLaughlin said that the City Clerk emailed him to alert him to election process dates that have shifted forward based on a referendum passing last November. The upshot of this change is that nomination papers for PIC councilor positions must be submitted earlier. They can be taken out on June 3rd and must be returned with signatures by July 29th.

Maine Island Coalition – Ellen Mahoney, Peaks Island representative to the Maine Island Coalition, said the group last met in January, just after the two large storms. The January meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting, not a special meeting because of the storm. The next meeting is in March and will concern fisheries in Maine. The meeting in May will concern leadership training and development. The coalition does not meet during the summer but resumes meeting in September. Mahoney asked the Peaks Island Council what they would like the Coalition to do on behalf of Peaks Island. The meetings have members of the federal and state delegations, so it is a good opportunity to bring issues forward. Mahoney said the alternate representative is Faith York and that the annual dues to belong to the coalition is \$200, which is now due. The city will pay the dues.

- **Anti-racism Committee – update**

No update.

- **Environmental and Sustainability**

Ann Coughlin said the Friends of Trott Littlejohn Park have submitted a grant to PIF for a storage shed. She said the organization is working on long-term planning for both Trott Littlejohn Park and the Ballpark.

Fox asked Coughlin if Trott Littlejohn Park is still part of the Transfer Station. Coughlin said that it is technically still part of the Transfer Station and the staff is helping to keep the area clean and “park like.”

Patnaude said it is officially a “public open space,” not a park. He said the city needs to retain some land on the island to use as a lay down area for project work on the island. That’s why the city does not want any permanent structures in Trott Littlejohn Park, and that is why the space hasn’t been officially designated as a park.

- **Ferry Service**

No update.

- **Housing – ReCode Zoning survey**

Laura Glendening said the Housing and Zoning Committee met with Nel Donaldson and Christine Grimando in early February to discuss the schedule for the presentation of the ReCode maps. Christine Grimando is the director of Planning and Urban Development for the City of Portland. Nel Donaldson is the Director of Special Projects for the City of Portland. They also discussed expanding the commercial zone. People are concerned about street safety during the busy summer. They asked Planning Department for a community meeting when the ReCode maps come out. McLaughlin asked to be looped into the conversation about the community meeting so that councilors can be involved.

- **Island Assessment** – McLaughlin encouraged people to respond to the online PIC questionnaire as a follow up to the Island Assessment report. Survey results will inform a visioning workshop.

- **Jetport Flight Path**

No update.

- **Ordinance Review Committee**

No further update – beyond what was already discussed in the Executive Committee update.

- **Paper Roads** – Fox reported that the first meeting was attended by Lisa Chase, Betsy Hayes, Barbara Carter, Chuck Radis, Phil Arnold, and Garry Fox. Robin Reed is also part of the committee although she was unable to attend the first meeting.

The mission statement is: The Paper Roads Committee aims to identify and catalog paper roads across the island. Through a collaborative educational process with islanders, local authorities, and knowledgeable experts we seek to promote the preservation of these historic pathways particularly those that are of great value to islanders and ensure that they remain accessible to members of our community.

The Paper Roads Committee Next meeting is March 4, 2024 via zoom. The committee will contact the city to get a list of the city's catalog of current paper roads on Peaks Island. The list was assembled in 1997. Phil Arnold said he has the list and will send it to Fox. Fox noted that some access roads are not defined as paper roads, some are just paths. Patnaude said that John Giles and George Carhart are the city representatives who are most informed about Portland's paper roads.

- **Parking**

No update.

- **Short Term Rental**

McLaughlin said that the committee will meet for the first time on Saturday, March 2nd at 1pm. The public is invited to be part of the committee. Members of the public should contact McLaughlin if they would like to join the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Review status of standing committees

McLaughlin made a motion to appoint Scott Mohler as chair of the Parking Committee. Fox seconded.

Reiser expressed interest in chairing the Parking Committee.

McLaughlin rescinded his original motion and made a new motion that Scott Mohler and Sheila Reiser co-chair the Parking Committee. Fox seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- **FY 2025 Budget Process**

McLaughlin shared results of the budget workshop. Requests are \$3,540 more than what the city allotted to the PIC last year (\$45K). McLaughlin said he does not think PIC should request more than what they were allotted last year.

McLaughlin said the PIC should consider the criteria they outlined for budget allocation applicants.

In December, PIC drafted a set of criteria for budget allocations is:

- 1) focus on transportation-related items
- 2) benefit to the broader Peaks Island community, not a small segment of the population
- 3) improve the health of the organization applying for the budget allocation

Mohler said that he is concerned about the annual expense of the webcam project (almost \$3K). He asked if the city would be able to pay for the annual subscription fees after the first year. Patnaude said that both the webcam and the annual subscription must be fully funded by Peaks Island. The camera will be at the top of Welch Street looking down both Welch Street towards the boat and down Island Avenue towards Hannigans. The intent is to allow people to see the car ferry queue.

Much discussion between councilors about which projects to fund. McLaughlin invited public comment.

AM said they did not support the webcam. They also said that they represent two organizations that did not apply because they did not meet the criteria. They encouraged councilors to apply to the criteria to all organizations that seek a budget allocation.

AM said they did not support the webcam. They felt the budget allocations should address true island needs.

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AM said they had missed some of the earlier discussions regarding the webcam and did not see its benefit. They asked the councilors to explain the safety benefits. Councilors said it was recommended in the city's landside study.

Fox motioned to accept the budget as proposed by McLaughlin:

FY 25 McLaughlin proposal

Bike Tickets	\$250
Needs Based Tickets	\$2,000
Middle school/ high school tickets	\$3,500
College student tickets	\$0
Private middle school/ high school tickets	\$0
Welch Street webcam (camera)	\$4,500
Welch Street webcam (subscription)	\$2,700
Island Transportation System (taxi)	\$22,320
Peaks Island Tax and Energy Assistance	
Peaks Environmental Action Team	
Administration	\$2,150
Food Pantry	
Fifth Maine Museum	
Community Arts and Play	
Friends of Brackett Cemetery	
Peaks Island Community Collaborative	
Illustration Institute	\$0
Peaks Island Children's Workshop	\$3,210
New Brackett Church	\$720
Island Compost Project	\$2,400
Peaks Island Historical Society	\$1,250
TOTAL	\$45,000

McLaughlin seconded.

No public comment.

Fox recused himself since he is on the board of the Taxi. All others voted in favor. Budget passed.

● Health Center car ticket request

The Health Center requested 10 car ferry tickets last August and PIC did not fund that request. The health center has once again requested "a few" car ferry tickets.

Both Fox and Reiser said they are fine with providing the health center with some car ferry tickets.

McLaughlin made a motion to provide three winter-season car ferry tickets to the health center now and to invite the health center to be in touch in future months to see if there is funding available for

additional car ferry tickets before the end of the fiscal year. Fox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

Next PIC Meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 6:15 pm in the community room and on Zoom.

Fox made motion to adjourn. Mohler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: 8:35 p.m.